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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
TSUYOSHI SATO, ET AL. : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION  
SERIAL NO: 10/820,712 :  
FILED: APRIL 9, 2004 :  
FOR: ALKALINE PROTEASE :

2<sup>ND</sup> PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to an examination on the merits and in response to the Notice to Comply mailed September 20, 2004, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the following Preliminary Amendment.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 3 of this paper.